

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are in the application.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9 are amended. No new matter is added.

Replacement sheets of the Figs. are enclosed. No new matter is added.

I. Drawings Objection Under 37 CFR §1.83(a)

The objection to the drawings by the Examiner is noted. Replacement drawing sheets are enclosed. In the Replacement sheets, in Figures 1, 5, and 6 a lead line is inserted for reference character "0". In Figure 2 lines A1 and A2 are added and reference character 51 together with its lead line is cancelled. In Figure 5 the reference number 4 is changed to 4A. In Figure 6 the reference number 4 is changed to 4B.

II. Claim objections

The objection to claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 is noted. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 are amended to avoid the objections raised by the Examiner.

III. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is noted. Claims 1 - 9 are amended and now avoid the various issues raised by the Examiner.

IV. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1-3, and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jaworski, is traversed.

In the invention here disclosed, a bearing seat of a ball joint located in a socket with an opening has a spherical sliding surface that rotatably holds a substantially globular ball portion of a ball stud arranged in the socket and has a latitudinal direction and a longitudinal direction, and an opening which communicates with the opening. The bearing seat of the ball joint houses concave portions which form lines along the latitude direction and respective opening areas of the mutually adjacent lines are different from each other. (See paragraph [0011], underscoring added for emphasis.)

Referring to Fig. 2 and Col, 4, lines 53-61 of Jaworski:

“... the bearing socket 18 has a generally spherical inner contour 52 having lubricant reservoirs that are exemplary shown as dimples at 54 formed thereon. The dimples or other cavity configurations - such as a waffle pattern or annular grooves - provide a plurality of lubricant reservoirs to facilitate continuous supply of lubricant onto the sliding surfaces between the ball stud journal 24 and the bearing socket 18 facilitating prolonged product performance.”

Amended claim 1 avoids Jaworski by reciting the structure of:

the opened areas in the second line are equal to each other
and less than the opened areas of the first line, and the
opened areas are adapted to house a lubricant”
(underscoring added for emphasis)

Claim 8 depends from claim 5 and, therefore, for the reason noted above, also avoids Jaworski. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

V. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaworski et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,795,092, in view of Ahn, KR-2001107452 is traversed.


Claim 4 depends from claim 1 which, as noted above, avoids Jaworski and, therefore, claim 4 also avoids Jaworski. Further, Ahn does not cure the deficiencies of Jaworski, and thus neither Jaworski, Ahn, nor the combination of the two renders the claim obvious. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending independent Claims 1-9 in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

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